

Long Island Sound Study  
Management Committee Meeting Summary  
Thursday, April 19, 2001  
Stamford, Connecticut

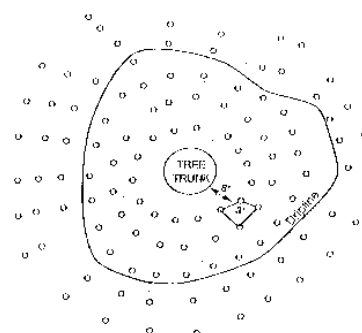
Mark Tedesco called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Tedesco asked if there were any changes to the January 18 management committee meeting minutes. As no changes were proposed, the minutes were approved. After self-introductions of attendees (see Attachment 1) Tedesco opened the floor to public comments.

### 1. Sound Off Public Comments

Mark Tedesco recognized Art Glowka, who noted "0" lobsters in the Western Sound. Glowka commented that hypoxia is a recent event in the Sound, and posed the question of what is really causing hypoxia. He referred to work by Gary Wikfors and Gerald Capriulo concerning the role of phytoplankton in the ecology of the Sound. Dr. Wikfors handed out an abstract of his work, *The Role of Phytoplankton-Copepod Trophic Interactions in Hypoxia -- Underestimated?* (See Attachment 2) Glowka indicated there are three distinct basins in the Sound with different ecosystems, and questioned whether there was a planktonic change in the Sound attributable to a shift in nitrogen. He indicated that you can't find large menhaden anymore, and stated that the size and species of plankton that menhaden feed on are no longer there. Glowka asked whether anyone knew what "Fibonacci numbers" were, and if anyone had heard the term "vertical mulching." Tedesco thanked Mr. Glowka for his comments and proceeded to the next agenda item.

[NB: Fibonacci numbers are a theorem of a 12<sup>th</sup> century mathematician, Leonardo of Pisa, commonly known as Fibonacci (from his Latin name, "Filius Bonacci," i.e., "Son of Bonacci."). Fibonacci numbers begin with 0 and 1, and continue by adding the last two numbers together to produce the next, i.e., 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21.... According to Fibonacci, these number series are found patterned in nature, e.g., in shell spirals, leaf and plant stem patterns, reproductive sequences etc. For further information, consult the Fibonacci home page at: <http://www.mcs.surrey.ac.uk/Personal/R.Knott/Fibonacci/fib.html>.]

[NB: Vertical mulching is a time-tested method of overcoming the stresses trees face in an unnatural environment. It creates columns of rich "top soil" down past the grass roots and deep into the area where tree roots can take advantage of them. Several years after vertical mulching, a careful examination of one of the columns would show thousands of tree feeder roots flourishing there.]



## 2. Report on the March 8 CAC Meeting

CAC co-chair David Miller summarized the CAC's March 8, 2001 meeting as follows. The co-chairs sent a letter on behalf of the CAC to the 19 members of the LIS Congressional Caucus supporting full \$40 million funding for the LIS Restoration Act of 2000. (See Attachment 3) Miller reported that he expected a letter of support to follow shortly from Governor Pataki to Senators Walsh, Schumer, and Clinton. Miller also indicated that the New York state senators are sending a letter of support to their colleagues in Congress. Miller urged the state and local members of the committee to help in supporting the full appropriation to the LIS program. Karen Chytalo indicated that Commissioner Crotty is meeting with Chairman Walsh next week, and would be supportive of the LISS.

Miller announced that the co-chairs will be participating in the June 14 NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program conference on Staten Island.

Miller advised the committee that the CAC will be using the 2000 CCMP Implementation Tracking Report, not yet issued, at its June 13 meeting to set its priorities for 2001/2002. Miller asked the committee members for their assistance in following up with their staff to ensure that information for the report was submitted in time for the Tracking & Monitoring subcommittee's upcoming conference call for the June CAC meeting.

**ACTION 1:** Committee members will follow up with their staff to ensure information is submitted for the 2000 CCMP Tracking Report.

At the recommendation of the CAC Watershed subcommittee, Miller requested the committee to provide an analysis of the Beach Act, and its implications for bi-state coordination and reporting of beach closure criteria and information.

In this regard, Peter Sattler announced that the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) and the CUNY College of Staten Island are co-sponsoring a conference on bathing beach criteria in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut metropolitan area. James Pendergast, Chief of the Health Protection and Modeling Branch in EPA Headquarters Office of Water is on the agenda to discuss implementation of the Beach Act. Mark Tedesco suggested that this conference is an excellent opportunity to learn about the Beach Act and its implications for state and local management. Tedesco offered to sponsor attendance at the conference by CAC watershed committee or other interested CAC members. The conference website is: [www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/as/beach/beach.html](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/as/beach/beach.html).

[NB: At the request of IEC, the LISO provided mailing labels for the CAC, TAC, MC and IT; IEC mailed copies of the conference brochure directly to these groups.]

Miller indicated that the CAC Living Marine Resources subcommittee recommended that the management committee support a research fund, and asked the committee to support its mission statement. As most of the committee members had not seen the mission statement, Miller requested that the LMR mission statement be provided with the meeting minutes. (See Attachment 4) Miller asked that the committee review the mission statement and provide any comments or suggestions to the CAC. Miller conveyed the CAC's sense that the committee adopt a similar living marine resources subcommittee, with a similar mission.

ACTION 2: Committee members will review the CAC Living Marine Resources subcommittee mission statement and provide comments to the CAC for action.

ACTION 3: The committee will place the issue of developing a living marine resources subcommittee on its July 19 meeting agenda.

Miller reported that the CAC had sent a letter to the state commissioners on the CAC's resolution of support for removing exemptions for municipalities in the storm water program . (See Attachment 5)

ACTION 4: The CTDEP and NYSDEC will respond to the CAC's letter on the storm water program as soon as practicable.

### 3. LISS 2001 Work Plan/Budget Process

Mark Tedesco reviewed LISS FY2001 funding. EPA's appropriation legislation (Public Law (P.L.) 106-377) provided \$4,500,000 in funding for the LISS, in addition to the \$500,000 contained in EPA's FY2001 President's Budget request. Public Law 106-457, the *Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000* contains Title IV, the *Long Island Sound Restoration Act*, which extends the authorization for the LISS to 2005 and increases the appropriations ceiling to \$40 million annually.

Tedesco reported that the LISS would not receive the additional \$300,000 from EPA's National Estuary Program (NEP); the LISS would still receive the \$10,000 supplemental funds for national travel. Tedesco indicated that the budget recommendations presented today reflect a total budget level of \$5.3 million, which was the implementation team's understanding of the LISS budget level after the joint NEP/ANEP meeting in March. On Tuesday, April 17, 2001 EPA released its draft NEP budget guidance, which indicated a

LISS base program level of \$500,000 -- that was the amount requested in the President's 2001 Budget. This amount, plus the \$10,000 travel funds and the \$4.5 million Congressional earmark for LISS raised the LISS budget allocation to \$5.01 million. Tedesco indicated that the committee would have to reduce the implementation team's recommendation by \$300,000.

Committee members expressed strong opposition to EPA Office of Water decisions on the LISS budget, and immediately drafted a letter of protest to Suzanne Schwartz, Director of EPA's Oceans and Coastal Protection Division (OCPD), which was signed by the NYSDEC, CTDEP and CAC co-chairs at the meeting. (See Attachment 6)

Tedesco reviewed the implementation team's recommendations; after discussion in which committee members expressed their views, the committee agreed to the budget allocations that are included in Attachment 7. Tedesco summarized the agreements as follows: base program funding of \$1.5 million; the research fund of \$350,000; state implementation grant funds of \$1.580 million each. This latter amount includes an additional \$80,000 above the \$1.5 million previously allocated to each state program for implementation projects; as a result, this action would obviate the necessity for a separate Request for Proposals for additional implementation projects, as had previously been agreed. Tedesco reminded committee members to submit their grant applications as soon as possible in order to ensure that fund can be obligated by September 30, 2001.

**ACTION 5:** Committee members with approved budget allocations will begin working on their grant applications for submission to EPA grants offices on or before June 30, 2001.

#### Environmental Merit Award

Mel Coté and Lynne Hamjian presented to David Miller the EPA Region I Environmental Merit Award for the CAC's continuing commitment to the environment and its work to restore and protect Long Island Sound. Miller thanked EPA and accepted the award on behalf of the CAC. (See Attachment 8)

#### 5. LISWA Summit Meeting

David Miller summarized the results of the March 2-3, 2001 Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance (LISWA) summit meeting held at the New York Botanical Garden in The Bronx. Staff are preparing summaries of the breakout sessions, which will be compiled into a report by Save the Sound. The discussion proceeded to the Long Island Sound Reserve system, which was a key topic at the LISWA conference. Miller indicated

that the reserve was included in the draft 2001 Long Island Sound Agreement which is under development by the interagency team. CTDEP expressed concerns about the reserve, indicating that it was still unclear as to what the reserve is, or would be; therefore it would be problematic to have the Governor sign a document containing an action item that had not been vetted and approved by the committee. Miller indicated that the reserve concept was explained in the *Listen to the Sound 2000* report provided in January 2001. Tom Morrissey agreed to review the recommendations in that report. Mark Tedesco reported that the agreement team has a conference call scheduled for April 30 to discuss the latest draft agreement. The team will begin to pare down the list of potential items for inclusion in the report, and better focus on proposed time frames and goals. The discussion proceeded to the logistics for the signing ceremony, which had been tentatively planned for National Estuaries Day, September 29, 2001 at the Maritime College in New York. The committee felt that a Friday would be better for the meeting and that since the 1996 signing ceremony was held in New York, Connecticut should host it this time. Tom Morrissey agreed to scope out a location for the ceremony in Connecticut. The planning date agreed upon for the ceremony is Friday, September 28, 2001.

ACTION 6: CTDEP will scope out a location for the 2001 Long Island Sound Agreement signing ceremony. EPA, CTDEP and NYSDEC staff will begin to assess their senior staff calendars in preparation for the event.

#### 4. Updates

2000 CCMP Implementation Tracking Report – Joe Salata reminded the committee members to submit their data as appropriate for the 2000 CCMP tracking report. The team had expected to provide a draft of the Overview sections of the 7 problem areas to the CAC for consideration at its March 8, 2001 meeting, but this did not happen due to incomplete information.

NEP/ANEP National Meeting – Mel Coté reported on the joint National Estuary Program (NEP)/Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) meeting held in Washington, DC from March 11-15, 2001.

Lobster Steering Committee – Karen Chytalo reported that a number of pre-proposals had been reviewed by the committee peer reviewers, and a subset of those proposers were asked to submit full proposals; peer reviewers provided their comments on the full proposals, which were evaluated and recommendations were made to the steering committee on proposals to be funded. NOAA will be making the announcement. CTDEP

announced its 3 awards; the NY and CT Sea Grant programs are sponsoring 12 additional projects for a total of 15.

Sound Health 2001 – Rosemary Pastor reported that over 460,000 copies of *Sound Health 2001* had been distributed in the April 1, 2001 Sunday editions of 7 major newspapers around the Sound. Copies of the report were distributed to management conference partners and CAC members. Additional copies are available upon request from the LISO. The report is also posted in .PDF format on the LISS website, <http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis>.

TMDL – Mark Tedesco reported that EPA approved the TMDL on April 3, 2001. A copy of the TMDL approval document and the TMDL are posted in .PDF format on the LISS website, <http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis>.

#### 5. Wrap Up & July Agenda Items

Mark Tedesco advised that the next management committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2001 in Stamford. Tedesco indicated that the committee discussion identified the following topic for the July agenda: discussion concerning the CAC's recommendation for a living marine resources subcommittee; results of the System-Wide Eutrophication Model (SWEM); and the draft LIS 2001 Agreement. Management Committee members should submit any other agenda topics to LISO by Thursday, June 28, 2001. The implementation team meets on that date to finalize the agenda.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2001 in Stamford at SoundWaters' Community Center for Environmental Education at Holly House in Cove Island Park.

There being no other business, Tedesco adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

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#### List of Attachments

1. April 19 Meeting Attendee List
2. Dr. Wikfors Abstract
3. CAC March 27, 2001 Letter to LIS Caucus on Appropriations
4. CAC Living Marine Resources Subcommittee Mission Statement
5. CAC March 22, 2001 Letter to NYSDEC/CTDEP on Storm Water Program
6. Management Committee April 19, 2001 Letter to EPA OCPD
7. FY 2001 LISS Budget Summary Chart
8. EPA March 30, 2001 Environmental Merit Award Notification Letter to CAC